



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

August 8, 2011

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senator
1 Church Street, 2nd Floor
Burlington, VT 05401

NVS-216 nam
Ref. No. 10335347

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] wrote your office concerning his model year (MY) 1989 Mazda RX 7 convertible vehicle.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED]. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. [REDACTED] indicated NHTSA did not respond to a prior complaint he filed on June 8, 2010. Our agency found no record of receiving his prior complaint. In his recent correspondence, he indicates that the seat belt retractor is not working properly in his MY 1989 Mazda RX 7 convertible. [REDACTED] states this problem is identical to the safety defect identified in NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 96V-173 and informed by Mazda that his vehicle is not included in the recall.

We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether the MY 1989 Mazda RX 7 convertible is included in NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 96V-173. We enclosed a copy of NHTSA's letter to Mazda acknowledging receipt of the recall announcement and Mazda's notification letter to owners. Both letters state MY 1989 through MY 1991 Mazda RX 7 convertibles are excluded from the recall. It is not uncommon for some number of vehicles of the same make but outside a recall population to exhibit a similar failure. A search of NHTSA's database does not show a safety defect trend with the MY 1989 Mazda RX 7 convertible for seat belt retractor failure. The information you provided has been entered into our database and will



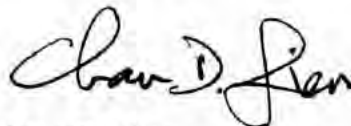
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be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. A brochure explaining the investigation process is enclosed for [REDACTED] information or he may visit our web site at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm. We suggest he continue to work with Mazda to resolve his problem.

In addition, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has jurisdiction over non-safety defects, paint, fraud or deception, warranty and dealership problems, remuneration matters, and fair trade practices. There are three ways [REDACTED] can contact the FTC: by toll free telephone at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); by mail at Federal Trade Commission, CRC-240, Washington, DC 20580; and by using the Internet complaint form at www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Claude H. Harris, Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 366-3217.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chan D. Lieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chan" and last name "Lieu" clearly distinguishable.

Chan D. Lieu
Director, Governmental Affairs,
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosures

cc: Washington Office